

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04755 141300Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00
FBOE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02
OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06
OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 PC-01 EB-08 IO-13 ACDA-12
TRSE-00 /120 W

-----101296 141307Z /41

O 141231Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9666

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4755

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION KINSHASA FROM LUBUMBASHI MAY 14
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0461

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PINS CG CASC
SUBJ: MILITARY ACTION IN KOLWEZY

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0460

SUMMARY: LATEST GECAMINES REPORTS ON MILITARY SITUATION SIMILAR
TO ASSESSMENT BY PRES MOBUTU REPORTED KINSHASA 4748. GECAMINES
HAS HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH RENARD RE POSSIBLE EVACUATION.
HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT LOCAL FAZ COMMANDER SASA. END
SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS LATEST ACCOUNT ON MILITARY SITUATION PER
GECAMINES TELEPHONE REPORTS FROM KOLWEZI. CITY GENDARMERIE
HEADQUARTERS FELL TO ATTACKERS MID-DAY MAY 13. IN LATE AFTER-
NOON FIGHTING SHIFTED TO AREAS EAST OF "OLD CITY" OF KOLWEZI.
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 04755 141300Z

FAZ MIRAGE JETS STRAFED AND BOMBED AIRPORT AT 1400 AND 1800 LOCAL
TIME MAY 13. FIGHTING CONTINUED IN EBSTERN RESIDENTIAL AREAS
("NEW CITY") UNTIL NIGHTFALL. FIGHTING RECOMMENCED AT 0715 LOCAL
TIME MAY 14. SPECIAL MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS ("QUARTIER-
GENERAL") STILL IN FAZ HANDS BUT VERY CLOST TO FIRE ZONE. AIRPORT
REMAINS CONTESTED AREA.

2. CURRENTLY FAZ FORCES ARE CONCENTRATED AT LUILU FACTORIES NORTHWEST OF CITY, GECAMINES ZINC REFINERY IN NORTH CENTRAL AREA, AND "CITE" OF MUTOSHI IN NORTHEAST. AT LEAST ONE ARMORED CAR IS STILL IN FAZ POSSESSION AND IS OPERATING IN AREA BETWEEN EASTERN RESIDENTIAL AREA AND AIRPORT.

3. IMPALA MOTEL APPARENTLY OVERRUN IN EARLY HOURS YESTERDAY MORNING AND A NUMBER OF FAZ OFFICERS LODGED THERE WERE TAKEN PRISONER. BRIDGE WHICH CONNECTS "OLD CITY" WITH EASTERN INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS HAS BEEN BLOCKED BY EX-KATANGANS.

4. NUMBER OF INVADERS IS STILL UNCERTAIN. A REPORT FROM ONE GECAMINES EXPAT WHO SAW EX-KATANGANS DEPLOYED IN KAMOTO OPEN PIT MINE AREA HAS ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF THAT UNIT ALONE AS FIVE HUNDRED. CONSENSUS OF GECAMINES KOLWEZI EXPATS IS THAT INVADERS NUMBER 500-1000. 31 EX-KATANGAN WOUNDED HAVE SO FAR BEEN ADMITTED TO GECAMINES HOSPITAL, WHICH REMAINS IN INVADERS' HANDS.

5. FAZ C-130 ARRIVED LUBUMBASHI EARLY MORNING MAY 14 WITH 50-100 TROOPS FROM KAMANYOLA DIVISION TO REINFORCE THE GARRISON HERE. FAZ APPARENTLY REINFORCED KIPUSHI GARRISON LAST WEEK BECAUSE OF BORDER SCARE. THREE HUNDRED KAMANYOLA NORMALLY STATION AT LUBUMBASHI ARE NOW AT KIPUSHI. FAZ HAS COMMANDEERED 9 TRUCKS FROM GECAMINES/LUBUMBASHI, 6 TRUCKS FROM KIPUSHI, 6 TRUCKS FROM LIKASI, 6 FROM SNCZ/LUBUMBASHI TO ASSIST IN TRANSPORTING TROOPS
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PAGE 03 KINSHA 04755 141300Z

TO LIKASI-KOLWEZI DEFENSE LINE.

6. MEHTODISTS HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WIT EITHER ENRIGHT OR AMSTUTZ FAMILIES SINCE 1000 LOCAL TIME MAY 13. GECAMINES' REPORTS ON MILITARY

SITUATION PUTS CIS BASE CAMP BEHIND FAZ LINES, BUT CIS FAMILY HOUSING IN "NEW CITY" SEEMINGLY IN OR NEAR SCENE OF CURRENT OR RECENT FIGHTING. METHODIST MISSIONARY CHIEF ENRIGHT HAS ADVISED CONSULATE OF EXISTENCE OF AUXILIARY LANDING STRIP IN MUTOSHI AREA, NEAR CIS BASE CAMP, IN WHAT WOULD BE FAZ CONTROLLED AREA. STIP IS 1200 METERS LONG, WITH 18 INCH THICK LATERITE SURFACE. IF AIRPORT REMAINS UNUSEABLE, AUXILIARY STRIP WOULD PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE EVACUATION POINT.

7. GECAMINES' TWO MAJOR CONCERNS AT PRESENT ARE POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF EXPATRIATES BY EX-KATANGEANS (REFTTEL) AND FOOD, WATER AND POWER SUPPLIES FOR CITY POPULATION. GECAMINES KOLWEZI CHIEF RENARD HAS NOT YET REPORTED RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH INVADERS' COMMANDERS, WHICH APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE AT EX-KATANGAN HEADQUARTERS, LOCATED AT KOLWEZI CENTRAL POST OFFICE.TI

8. FAZ HAS DE-ACTIVATED MAJOR FEEDER STATION FOR KOLWTTI WHICH

IS LOCATED NEAR GECAMINES ZINC FACTORY NORTH OF THE CITY. CUT
IN ELECTRICAL POWER EFFECTIVELY BLOCKS SUPPLY OF WATER AS WELL.
GECAMINES MANAGEMENT ESTIMATES SITUATION COULD BECOME CRITICAL
IN TWO-THREE DAYS. POWER FOR CRITICAL AREAS, SUCH AS HOSPITAL,
BEING SUPPLIED BY BACK-UP DIESEL GENERATOR SYSTE.

9. HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE LOCAL FAZ COMMANDER COL SASA, WHO
IS REPORTEDLY PERSONALLY DIRECTING DEPLOYMENT OF LUBUMBASHI'S
DEFENSES. WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HIM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN WRITTEN
LAISSEZ-PASSER AND POSSIBLY FAZ ESCORT OF ADJUTANT RANK TO
ACCOMPANY VICE CONSUL O'LEARY TO MULONGWISHI AND LIKASI
TO RETREIVE FIVE METHODIST MISSIONARIES AND FIVE PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS (TWO ARE VISITORS). WILL ADVISE.

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PAGE 04 KINSHA 04755 141300Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, REPORTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA04755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780204-0813
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780560/aaaabzdc.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82a21c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LUBUMBASHI 460
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2697505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ACTION IN KOLWEZY
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82a21c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014